

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 26 are pending in this application, of which Claims 1, 11, 12, 17 and 26 are independent claims. Claim 26 has been added to assure Applicants of a full measure of protection of the scope to which they deem themselves entitled.

Initially, Applicants repeat and renew the arguments set forth in their Amendment After Final Action dated January 9, 2004, which they believe show the previously-presented claims to be allowable.

Independent Claim 26 is directed to an image processing apparatus, that comprises a bitmap image generator, arranged to receive inputted object data and to produce a corresponding bitmap image, and a data holding unit arranged to receive and to hold attribute information representing plural types of attributes of the inputted object data in units of pixels of the bitmap image generated by the bitmap image generator, the attribute information being formed by allocating plural bits to each pixel of the bitmap image. Also provided are a converter, adapted to convert the bitmap image into data capable of being processed by an image output unit, and a switch unit, adapted and arranged to switch the contents of processing in the converter on the basis of a combination of the plural types of attributes represented by the attribute information held by the data holding unit.

Claim 26 is thus an apparatus claim corresponding substantially to Claim 1, but not using means-plus-function claim recitations, and is believed to be allowable for substantially the same reasons as is Claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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